

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

I've said it for years and I'll say it again here: providing affordable housing for District of Columbia residents is one of my top priorities, and it will continue to be. Recently, we've made several announcements demonstrating that the wheels are in motion to continue to provide affordable housing for our residents.

Earlier this month, the District of Columbia Housing Authority was awarded \$20 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Eastgate Gardens Public Housing development on Benning Road in Southeast. This will result in the transformation of a 230-unit public housing project into a 269-unit mixed-income community with a Community Arts Center.

The District has now received six federally-funded "HOPE VI" housing awards, which total \$140 million. We are a national leader in the design and execution of innovative and successful HOPE VI projects. To me, it's appropriate that we won this HOPE VI during June, which is National Homeownership Month. With HOPE VI, we're trying to help people become independent homeowners.

Right now, more than 34,000 units of housing have been completed or are in our production pipeline across the District of Columbia. 50 percent of the units in the pipeline are already being built, and 11,000 of those units are affordable housing.

Last week, I sat in on the first meeting of the Comprehensive Housing Strategy Task Force, which—just like its name—will recommend ways to keep our affordable housing stock growing as our city's population increases. And as our city's population grows, we'll support it with financial credits and community programming:

- Through our housing agencies, there are financial incentives to buy or renovate a home in DC.
- Those agencies offer free homebuying seminars throughout the city.
- And the "city living, dc style!" campaign is beginning its second year—a clearinghouse for everything about owning a home in DC.

Finally, the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency (DCHFA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary celebration this year. Since its establishment in 1979, DCHFA has issued more than \$2.1 billion in mortgage revenue bonds to finance 20,601 affordable housing units, including 13,644 multifamily, 904 special needs and 6,053 single-family housing units. In addition, the DCHFA plays a critical role in ensuring affordability in many of the city's government-funded rehabilitation and construction development deals.

An early reminder for readers that as part of our efforts to bring 100,000 new residents to our city, we're holding our second "city living, dc style!" EXPO. Mark your calendars: September 17 – 19 at the Washington Convention Center in Northwest. More information about the expo will follow in the coming weeks.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

# Help Is Still Needed for Summer Job Programs

Summer is here, and thousands of city young people are out of school and ready to begin summer jobs in a few short weeks. Last year, the DC Department of Employment Services placed 5,494 youth in summer jobs with the help of the private sector, federal and district agencies. This year, 9,275 youth have registered, and our hope is to have jobs for all of them this summer.

Although the local economy is improving, it appears that young job seekers especially will have a hard time finding temporary employment this summer. That is why funding for this program was increased to \$5 million. However, this will only provide jobs for 5,000 of those 9,000 registered young people.

I hope our local businesses will look into their budgets and hire some young workers. Many business leaders have already stepped up to the plate and will partner with us to provide jobs for youth this summer: Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering; MCI Center; Verizon; Arnold and Porter; Best Buy/small business resource center; Exxon Mobil; Integrated Asset Management; Guest Services; US Department of State; US Department of Transportation; Bolling Air Force Base; and the US Department of Agriculture.

While we're pleased with the initial response from employers, more jobs and paid internships are still needed. I want at least 6,000 young people to go to work on July 12. With the help of the business community we can exceed that number.

It's incredibly important for our young people to have summer jobs. Think of the person who provided you with your first work experience. How important was that opportunity in developing your career choices?

For additional information on hiring or sponsoring a young person, call the Summer Jobs Hotline at (202) 698-5242.

## Community Profile

### Sherman Keith

Ward 7 resident Sherman Keith arrives early each morning at the Earth Conservation Corps site along the Anacostia River and is usually the last to leave. As a squad leader for the AmeriCorps program, he spends every day working along the Anacostia River, helping preserve the environment of his hometown and giving back to his community and peers. He is a role model for his neighborhood, proving that despite challenges in your community you can make a difference in the lives of others.

"I want to see how I can make my community a better place. I want to see people be able to eat fish from the Anacostia," Sherman said. "What's better than cleaning your community?"

His dedication to service and the Earth Conservation Corps program is outstanding. He has served more than 200 hours more than any other member of the group. Sherman graduated from the program on May 13, 2004, a day he said was one of his proudest. He intends to come back to work as a staff member with Earth Conservation Corps someday.

Service has been a part of Sherman's life since he was young. At 13 years of age, he became an Eagle Scout with Troop 1650 where he learned survival skills and the importance of community service.

Sherman, a native Washingtonian and graduate of Eastern Senior High School, has a 5 year-old daughter, Sadaja Keith. After his year of AmeriCorps service, he plans to complete his education at Norfolk State University in athletic training and become a sports medicine doctor.

Sherman is the October 2003 youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit <http://serve.dc.gov> for nomination information or call (202) 727-9461.



Sherman Keith



## Potomac Conference: Examining Health Care— Prescriptions for Managing Costs and Improving Health

On June 3, I joined leadership from around the region for the Potomac Conference, which this month discussed the issue of health care in the greater DC area. The forum brought together public, private and nonprofit executives from the District, northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland to focus their expertise and influence on improving the region's economic health and quality of life.

As Mayor, health care is one of my top priorities. As we all know, lack of health insurance is a significant problem for Americans across our nation. The statistics are frightening and unacceptable. Our uninsured citizens not only get less health care—they live shorter and less productive lives than those of us who have insurance.

Improving health care is one way to make the District of Columbia a more attractive place to live and do business. Our record so far is very good. Fewer District residents lack health insurance than in most states. The national average in most states is 15 percent uninsured. As we speak, our city is at about 13 percent. The District of Columbia compares even more favorably with other large cities. New York City, for example, is at nearly 25 percent uninsured, and Chicago is at about 20 percent uninsured.

I hope to build a system to connect people in need of good jobs in the health care sector with our area colleges and universities so that they may receive the necessary training to fill openings in our area's health care system.

We need to look at a regional solution and work with our partners in Virginia and Maryland to create a seamless system. Providers should not have to recruit qualified personnel from overseas. We should focus on training people in our community for these jobs. Several years ago, I created the District of Columbia Workforce Investment Council. I directed the Council to provide leadership to create an effective system to serve the workforce development needs of District residents and the region's employer community.

The Workforce Investment Council is partnering with the DC Chamber of Commerce and the DC Hospital Association to develop the "District Center for Health Workforce Resources." This "virtual center" will assist in meeting the workforce needs of employers and improving employment opportunities for residents.

While we still have work ahead of us, I believe we're making tremendous progress on working together as a region to tackle our health care concerns.

## Downtown BID Awards for "SAMs"

On June 14, I delivered remarks at the Downtown Business Improvement District's Annual Momentum Awards, celebrating outstanding individual and organizational achievement over the past year in making our "new" downtown vibrant, inviting and beautiful.

The Downtown Business Improvement District (BID) is a nonprofit organization that provides safety, hospitality, sanitation, homeless, economic development, transportation and streetscape and marketing services to Washington's center city. Its mission is to help raise our downtown to a world-class standard as a commercial, cultural and residential destination.

At the event, I paid tribute to the BID's downtown Safety and Maintenance Workers, "SAMs," who work so hard every day keeping our downtown in tiptop shape. We now have an abundance of retail, with stores like the flagship H&M clothing store, a new Joseph Banks clothing store and countless new restaurants, especially in downtown's east end, or the Penn Quarter. Now, it's all about taking care of the "pockets," the details. Let's focus on filling the remaining empty spaces. Our downtown is thriving, so we need to take it to the next level.

## Strengthening Partners Initiative Applications Due

This is a reminder that the Office of Partnerships and Grants Development in the Executive Office of the Mayor is accepting applications for the Class of 2004-2005 Strengthening Partners Initiative (SPI). The Strengthening Partners Initiative is a free one-year organizational and executive leadership development program for emerging DC faith-based and nonprofit organizations. The program offers bi-weekly capacity building instruction on core topics like board development, grant development, and financial management. It also provides more specialized mentoring training and requires the participants to demonstrate how they plan to use the tools learned from the program.

For more information, visit OPGD's website <http://opgd.dc.gov> or call (202) 727-8900. Applications are due at 5 pm on July 2, 2004 and may be emailed, faxed, hand delivered, or mailed to One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20001.



## ACE Mentoring Program of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area

As Mayor, I have learned that much of what we do in a city government revolves around partnerships. The Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentoring program of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area is an excellent example of one of these partnerships.

On the morning of June 8, I was pleased to attend the 4th Annual Washington, DC ACE Scholarship Breakfast at the Marvin Center at George Washington University's Grand Ballroom.

For four years, more than 100 high school students drawn from the District of Columbia, northern Virginia, and Maryland have explored educational and career opportunities in architecture, construction, and engineering with 23 seniors winning scholarships totaling \$62,500. The program targets urban young people in order to educate and motivate them towards successful careers.

The great pacifist and philosopher Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." For people who serve as mentors, it means they're taking their free time and dedicating it to the hands-on service of others. The power of service can improve the lives of many.

ACE is a unique partnership of architects, construction managers, engineers, designers, professional societies, high schools, and universities, which donate office use, resources, and the time of mentors. Students learn skills in communications, personnel management, business attire, personal conduct and negotiating. Simply put, they see lessons from the classroom transformed into something relevant, workable, and understandable.

Thanks to all of the companies and mentors who unselfishly donate their time and resources for this worthy cause.

## Signing of Memorandum of Understanding for New South Capitol Street Bridge

On June 8, 2004, along with Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging the cooperation and support of the US Department of Transportation to facilitate the District's construction of a new South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Bridge.

After we signed the Memorandum, Secretary Mineta and I threw a switch to activate a TV camera showing osprey nesting on the bridge. The return of this bird is a sign of the progress made in cleaning up the Anacostia River. It was not too long ago that the pollution in this area had made it impossible for osprey and other birds to survive on the waterfront.

It was truly an honor to take this important step toward the replacement of the South Capitol Street Bridge on the Anacostia River. The US Department of Transportation has been a key partner over the past four years when we brought together more than 20 federal and local agencies to commit to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative will help to make us one of the great waterfront cities of the world. We will revitalize the long-neglected neighborhoods along the river's shores by promoting sustainable development of residences, businesses and recreational opportunities. The Memorandum of Understanding that we signed will help us plan and build a new South Capitol Street Bridge to serve as the gateway for the southern approach to the nation's capital.

The partnership will also ensure that the other crossings of the Anacostia, including the 11th Street Bridge, the Sousa/Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, and a possible crossing at Massachusetts Avenue, all contribute to the vision we share for the Anacostia.

The South Capitol Street crossing is also vital for the security of the nation's capital, by connecting the Capitol and the White House with Andrews AFB and for facilitating regional mobility.





## Mayor's Week in Review

### Mayor Attends Funeral of Former President Reagan

On **June 11**, I attended the funeral of former President Ronald W. Reagan, held at the Washington National Cathedral in Northwest.

### Mayor Attends Charity Basketball Tourney

On **June 12**, I attended the 9th annual "Hoop Dreams" 3-on-3 Charity Basketball Tournament, held in Northwest.

### Mayor Attends Fairlawn Citizens Association Monthly Meeting

On **June 15**, I delivered remarks at the monthly meeting of the Fairlawn Citizens Association and discussed my economic development plan as it affects the Fairlawn Community.

### Mayor Speaks at DC-CAP and DCTAG Event

On **June 15**, I delivered remarks at a celebration for the 2004 class of the DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) and the DC Tuition Assistance Program (DC-TAG).

### Mayor Speaks at Health and Fitness Festival

On **June 16**, I delivered remarks along with US Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson at the "Healthier US Fitness Festival," held on the National Mall near the US Capitol.

### Mayor Testifies on Capitol Hill

On **June 22** and **June 23**, I testified on Capitol Hill about two issues of critical importance to District residents—voting rights and the structural imbalance.

## District Activities



Mayor Williams delivered remarks at the Healthier US Fitness Festival in front of the Reflecting Pool at the US Capitol, on the National Mall, on June 16. Also speaking was US Secretary of Health and Human Service Tommy Thompson.



On June 24, Mayor Williams signed The Omnibus Public Safety Agency Reform Act, originally introduced by Councilmember Patterson in 2002, during the 14<sup>th</sup> Council Period. Ultimately, the bill will help create a safer city for residents.



On Tuesday, June 22, Mayor Williams spoke at the District's Tuition Assistance Grant Program graduation ceremony.



## Community News

- [Distracted Driving Safety Act Begins July 1](#)
- [Mayor Williams Presses for District Voting Rights on Capitol Hill](#)
- [Mayor Testifies Before Senate Subcommittee on DC's Structural Imbalance](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

6/29	<b>HFA/Fannie Mae Present “Borrow With Confidence: Maximizing the Buyer’s Financing Power”</b> 9 am – 12 pm Housing Finance Agency Headquarters 815 Florida Avenue, NW
6/29	<b>Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Public Hearing on the District’s Comprehensive Housing Strategy</b> 6 pm – 8 pm Savoy Elementary School Auditorium 2400 Shannon Place, SE
On-going	<b>Workshops on Home Buying</b> Every Wednesday (10 am) and Friday (11:30 am) Home Resource Center 815 Florida Avenue, NW
On-going	<b>“Su Casa Propia” Walk-in Homeownership Workshop Presented in Spanish by HFA</b> Every Thursday 10:30 am Home Resource Center 815 Florida Avenue, NW
6/29	<b>Homeless No More - Public Meeting</b> 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Martin Luther King, Jr. Library 901 G Street, NW
7/4	<b>Palisades 38th Annual Fourth of July Parade</b> noon Whitehaven Parkway and MacArthur Boulevard, NW

